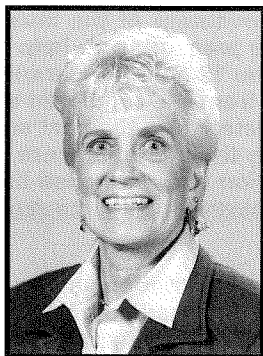


Hammerstrom's

for the people
in the 17th Senate District

Hotline



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MICHIGAN IS NUMBER ONE FOR BOAT REGISTRATIONS Michigan has more registered boats than any other state, according to the United States Coast Guard (USCG). There were 1,000,337 boats registered in this state in 2002. Florida follows with 922,597 and California is third with 896,090 registered boats. The USCG, using boat registration statistics compiled by each state, reported the number of boats in use in the U.S. is 12.8 million. This number, however, is actually higher due to the many small, non-powered crafts such as canoes and utility boats not required to be registered in many states. The National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) reports the actual number of boats in use in this country, including those not registered, to be closer to 17 million. Boat owners can renew their watercraft registrations online by visiting the Secretary of State's website at www.michigan.gov/sos. Residents may also renew watercraft registrations by touch-tone telephone, mail, or at a branch office.

DID YOU KNOW? There are over 1,300 public boating access sites throughout Michigan administered by state, county, and local units of government.

MDEQ SEEKING APPLICATIONS FOR SCRAP TIRE PROGRAM The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is seeking applications for funds available under the new Scrap Tire Regulatory Fund. The program has \$500,000 under the Scrap Tire Market Development Grant Program and an additional \$500,000 is available to end-users who receive scrap tires or tire chips under the Scrap Tire End-User Grant Program. The money, generated through a \$1.50 fee on vehicle title certificates, encourages the creation of additional markets and products made from Michigan's scrap tires and further promotes an increase in the appropriate use of scrap tire material in the state. Programs to use tires as fuel are not eligible for either grant program. Grant applications can be requested by writing the Scrap Tire Regulatory Program, Waste and Hazardous Materials Division, Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 30241, Lansing, MI 48909-7741 or by calling (517) 335-4035. Application packets may also be downloaded from the MDEQ website at www.michigan.gov/deq.

EMERALD ASH BORER QUARANTINE REVISED The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) has amended the state's Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) quarantine to include eight additional areas outside the 13-county quarantine of Southeast Michigan. These additional areas are known as "outlier" sites and are a result of artificial movement of the invasive insect rather than natural spread. MDA included the outlier sites in the quarantine as an extra precaution to help prevent any potential EAB spread. The provisions for these new areas are the same as those in the 13-county quarantine: absolutely no firewood of any type or ash material greater than one-inch chips can be moved from the regulated area. Additionally, the "core" area of general EAB infestation has been redefined based on data collected over the past seven months. Under the provisions of this quarantine, regulated material is prohibited from leaving the identified core, not even to the remaining quarantined areas. For more information about the state's EAB infestation and a detailed list of areas in the quarantine, including several townships and villages of the 17th District, please visit www.michigan.gov/mda or contact my office, toll-free, at 1-888-477-8238.

OUT-OF-STATE WASTE STANDARDS SIGNED INTO LAW Michigan now has out-of-state waste restrictions under legislation recently signed by the Governor. The package imposes restrictions on the importation of Canadian and out-of-state waste, sets a two-year moratorium on new landfills, and gives broader authority to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to enforce these tougher garbage standards. The new rules require all Canadian and out-of-state waste to meet the same stringent standards Michigan has for its own waste. Landfills would be required to refuse any out-of-state waste that did not meet the tough standards.

You can read future issues of Hammerstrom's Hotline on my website at
www.senate.michigan.gov/hammerstrom/news/Hotline.htm.